

DIETARY COMPOSITION OF ORGANISMS IN AN AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM

Organism	Food Source (% of diet)				
	Algae	Stoneflies	Midges	Hellgrammites	Caddisflies
Algae					
Stoneflies			90		10
Midges	100				
Hellgrammites		20	10		70
Caddisflies	70		30		

4. The table above shows how much each organism in an aquatic ecosystem relies on various food sources. The rows represent the organisms in the ecosystem, and the columns represent the food source. The percentages indicate the proportional dietary composition of each organism. High percentages indicate strong dependence of an organism on a food source.
- (b) In an effort to control the number of midges, an area within the ecosystem was sprayed with the fungus *Metarhizium anisopliae*, which significantly decreased the midge population. Based on the data in the table, **predict** whether the spraying of the fungus will have the greatest short-term impact on the population of the stoneflies, the caddisflies, or the hellgrammites. **Justify** your prediction.

